

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 L-03 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
NSC-05 SP-02 /074 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:JTEFFT/ATP

APPROVED BY IO: SWLEWIS

AF:WESCHAUFEE

L:AF:MMATHESON

TREAS:SSUMMERFIELD

IO/UNP:GBHELMAN

IO/UNP:GBHELMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020522

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH, UN

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN SANCTIONS: BRITISH PROPOSAL TO EXPAND
SANCTIONS

REFERENCES: A) LONDON 908 B) STATE 13466

1. PLEASE INFORM FCO THAT AFTER CAREFUL STUDY BY DEPART-
MENTS OF STATE AND TREASURY, USG HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON
BRITISH PROPOSAL TO EXPAND RHODESIAN SANCTIONS TO INCLUDE
PROHIBITIONS ON CASH FLOWS TO MAINTAIN RHODESIAN OFFICES
ABROAD:

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A) SUPPORT OF BRITISH PROPOSAL WOULD MEAN THE EFFECTIVE
FINANCIAL STRANGULATION OF THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE
(RIO) IN WASHINGTON. AS PRESENTLY WORDED BRITISH PROPOSAL
COULD ALSO PRODUCE A COURT SUIT CHALLENGING CONSTITUTION-
ALITY OF USG ACTION. SERIOUS QUESTION EXISTS WHETHER USG
CAN, UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT, PROHIBIT TRANSFER OF FUNDS
TO ANY RHODESIAN OFFICE OR AGENCY, SUCH AS THE RHODESIAN

INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON (RIO), IN ORDER TO STOP IT FROM "PROPAGATING THE VIEWS" OF THE SMITH REGIME. ARGUMENT CAN BE MADE THAT USG CANNOT INHIBIT THE EXPRESSION OF ONE SIDE OF A POLITICAL ARGUMENT, AND THAT US CITIZENS OR RESIDENT ALIENS WOULD HAVE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

VIOLATED BY BEING DENIED POSSIBILITY OF EXPOUNDING ON RHODESIAN VIEWS OR HAVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION FAVORING RHODESIAN VIEWS.

B. TO MITIGATE CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM, DEPARTMENTS OF USG ARE CURRENTLY EXPLORING POSSIBLE LANGUAGE CHANGES. WE WILL PROVIDE UK RESULTS OF OUR THINKING.

2. BEYOND CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM, BRITISH PROPOSAL NOW REQUIRES FURTHER THOUGHT IN LIGHT OF BREAKDOWN OF GENEVA TALKS. AS BRITISH KNOW, USG IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY. WE EXPECT INTER-AGENCY STUDY TO INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF BRITISH PROPOSAL. UNTIL POLICY REVIEW IS COMPLETED, USG WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE FIRM DECISION ON BRITISH PROPOSAL. WE WOULD ACCORDINGLY REQUEST BRITISH TEMPORARILY TO DELAY PRESENTATION OF THEIR PROPOSAL TO SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

3. IN MAKING THIS REQUEST YOU SHOULD STRESS TO BRITISH THAT WE UNDERSTAND THEIR DESIRE TO PRESS AHEAD WITH PROPOSAL IN ORDER TO APPEAR RESPONSIVE TO AFRICANS AT UN. WE AGREE IT IS IMPORTANT TO EMPLOY FURTHER SANCTIONS AS PRESSURE ON SMITH. WE HOPE, THOUGH, THAT FCO WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDERSTAND THAT WE VIEW THIS PROPOSAL IN CONTEXT OF OUR CONTINUING JOINT EFFORTS ON RHODESIA AND WILL RESPECT OUR NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TIME.

4. FOR PARIS: WE UNDERSTAND FROM USUN THAT FRENCH HAVE PROBLEMS WITH BRITISH PROPOSAL. PLEASE INQUIRE SOONEST WITH QUAI ABOUT THEIR DIFFICULTIES. YOU MAY SHARE WITH THEM OUR SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE FOR OPERATIVE PARA 1 OF BRITISH DRAFT RESOLUTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, SANCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE020522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JTEFFT/ATP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770032-0189
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977015/aaaaaebg.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b42f71d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 908, 77 STATE 13466
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3592814
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIAN SANCTIONS: BRITISH PROPOSAL TO EXPAND SANCTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH, US, UN
To: LONDON PARIS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b42f71d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009